[English]

Declaration of Roads as National Highways in Maharashtra

3382. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT :
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Transport Policy Committee has been asked to recommend that three roads in Maharashtra be declared as National Highways;

(b) whether any proposal was also been submitted by Maharashtra Government in December, 1996 in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c) The proposal for declaration of three roads aggregating to 853 kms. was received from Government of Maharashtra in December, 1996. These roads were also recommended by the National Transport Policy Committee for declaring them as National Highways.

(d) Due to paucity of funds, none of the proposals could be acceded to.

[Translation]

Workers in Water Resources Department, Kanpur (U.P.)

3383. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the daily wages workers in Water Resources Department in Kanpur, (U.P.) are eligible for regularisation, D.A., casual/medical leave and other facilities;

(b) if so, whether such facilities/emoluments are not being provided to them;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (d) Regularisation, Dearness Allowance, Casual/Medical leave and other facilities to daily wages workers in Irrigation Department of the State Government at Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh) are governed by the State Government rules.

Prisoners in Pak Jails

3384. PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR' :
SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH :
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards newsitem "Pak Jailo mein abhi bhi sarh rahe hai 71 yudh ke 54 sepahi" published in 'Jansatta' dated December 16,1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government have introduced any welfare schemes for the dependents of war-soldiers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (e) According to available information, at present 54 missing Defence personnel are believed to be in custody in Pakistan. Missing personnel are presumed killed and their families are given liberalised pensionary awards, which include liberalised family pension, family gratuity, children allowance and education allowance for children.

Use of Word Herbal by Pan Masala Products

3385. SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH :
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the producers of pan masala have started using the word 'harbal' to boost their sale;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to take action against such producers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) No such case of use of the word 'herbal' by the producers of pan masala has been reported.

(c) and (d) Standards of pan masala prescribed under P.F.A. Rules, 1955 already permit use of ingredients derived from plant products like Detelnut, Coconut, Catechu, Cardamom, Dry fruits, Mulethi, Sabermusa and other aromatic herbs and spices.